

I. Project Title and Project Purpose Statement

Title: ELK Youth Naturally – Community Water Connections (ELKYN-CWC)

Summary: With this proposal, Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) will empower and educate our northeast Denver communities on environmental and public health issues and help identify and implement effective and achievable ways to address these issues at the local level. The ELKYN-CWC project will increase the capacity of our community to address water contamination and other environmental injustices by sharing information, educating our up-and-coming leaders, and providing opportunities to individual community members to take on leadership roles. The primary and most effective means of change is through our youth, our future decision-makers and leaders in environmental change. After 19 years of working with our community's youth, we have come to understand and appreciate their capacity for leadership and their passion to improve the neighborhoods in which they live. Youth-led environmental education activities managed by ELK will increase the entire community's understanding of environmental justice, how environmental burdens affect their lives, and how the neighborhood can proactively work together to prevent disproportionate impacts in the future.

In alignment with our current environmental education work with the youth in northeast Denver, ELK's goals are to address the direct impacts of water pollution and contamination, climate change, and local environmental and public health issues, such as disproportionate health burdens and contamination of food supplies, and to explore how current and past human activities and socioeconomic realities have influenced our neighborhoods' current environmental situation. We will then connect human activities to the impact of water contamination, climate change, and local environmental and public health issues on the natural world, including exploration of aquatic biology, changes in species diversity, and impacts on fish populations from water quality changes. ELK utilizes an integrated environmental curriculum that connects understanding of natural resources with the lives and interests of urban youth, increasing awareness of human impacts on the greater ecosystem, and cultivating leadership and career opportunities. This connection with the natural world is imperative to deepening understanding of significant local environmental and public health issues and increasing motivation to act.

ELKYN-CWC will tie project activities to an understanding of what environmental justice means: '*fair treatment* and *meaningful involvement* of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies'. Lessons learned by youth leaders will then be disseminated throughout northeast Denver communities with youth-led social media and other online technology, engaging the greater community in ordering priorities around solutions to environmental issues. Through self-designed, adult-monitored community stewardship projects and community education activities, ELK youth become engaged in their neighborhoods while building their community's capacity to challenge the impacts of environmental injustice, water contamination, climate change, and local environmental and public health issues. The goal is for ELK youth to become more knowledgeable, engaged, and active environmental citizens, with the skills and baseline science background to facilitate community discussions and actions.

Project Location: ELKYN-CWC activities will focus on the Denver metropolitan area of Colorado, specifically, Montbello (80239), Green Valley Ranch (80249), and Commerce City (80022), introducing youth from these neighborhoods to ELK's unique environmental programs at local, state, and national parks and other public lands and open spaces; at agency buildings,

public works facilities, and college campuses around the metropolitan area; and at streams, rivers and lakes in the urban area, regionally and statewide.

Related environmental statute(s): Through education, trainings, demonstration projects related to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution, as well as education, training, and career explorations relating to the public health aspects of providing safe drinking water, this project is directly related to both the **Clean Water Act** (Section 104(b) (3)) and the **Safe Drinking Water Act** (Section 1442 I (3)).

II. Environmental and Public Health information about the Affected Community

Local environmental and public health issues this project addresses: The impacts on clean water and safety of drinking water are a significant local concern with the potential to aggravate existing environmental justice issues. For the Denver metropolitan area communities we work with – all with fewer resources to respond and adapt to water pollution and contamination, climate change, and local environmental and public health issues – the impacts can be the tipping point in an already precarious public health situation. Communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately bearing the burdens of these issues, on top of the existing environmental hazards they already face. These issues are:

- A lack of knowledge of water quality and environmental justice issues.
- A shortage of leadership capacity.
- An absence of community action on water quality, safe drinking water.

Results achieved addressing local environmental and public health issues: Results of ELK's past and current engagement of affected communities in our service area include various measures of success. Our most important metric focuses on the retention and achievements of our core constituents, youth from the affected communities we have served for more than 19 years. Our work addressing local environmental and public health issues in the low income communities and communities of color in Denver is based on ensuring success for the youth we educate and their families. Through our long-term evaluation program we are able to determine that participation in ELK programs assures our youth develop increased interest in community stewardship, increased academic and career aspirations, and an increased science knowledge base and interest in and devotion to environmental issues. ELK's recent acquisition of 5.5 acres of open space in close proximity to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge for outdoor recreation and environmental education activities will expand our capacity to address public health issues by providing a hands-on, outdoor learning laboratory for youth to explore all aspects of water pollution and contamination, and local environmental and public health issues.

Community characteristics: The affected communities to be served through the ELKYN-CWC project are predominately composed of low-income persons of color and the majority of participants will be African-American and Latino families. The demographics of the ELKYN-CWC project youth participants are: 30% African-American, 45% Latino, 8% Caucasian, 2% Asian and 15% multi-cultural. More than 85% of the youth qualify for free or reduced price lunch, and their school districts have a less than 60% average graduation rate. These demographics indicate that our communities are already faced with a number of social and economic burdens, with diminished water quality and safe drinking water as additional burdens.

According to The Piton Foundation's Children's Corridor research data 2011, the combined neighborhoods of Park Hill, Montbello, and Green Valley Ranch have a total population of 76,400 residents and 25,588 are children. The average children qualifying for free or reduced price lunch is 76.6% in these affected communities. Commerce City has a total population of 45,913 residents and 15,202 are children. In Commerce City, 84% of children

qualify for free or reduced price lunch. ELK and the ELKYN-CWC project's main service area is the Montbello community. It is one of the largest neighborhoods in Denver and has undergone many recent changes. The demographics have shifted in the last 20 years from historically African American to a majority Latino community. This neighborhood also has been hard hit by the recent Great Recession and has experienced many foreclosures as it struggles to catch up to the growing economic well-being of the rest of the Denver metropolitan area. Nonetheless, there has been increasing momentum within the community and from supporting organizations to strengthen the neighborhood and improve outcomes for children.

Disproportionate community impacts by the environmental and public health harms and risks: The Lowry Landfill and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, both Superfund sites, border two sides of the targeted neighborhoods. And in the past year, a Suncor Energy benzene spill at their refinery has heavily impacted Sand Creek in Commerce City, north of Denver, in the midst of one of our service area neighborhoods. Despite repeated assurances that these sites have had no measureable impacts of water quality, affected communities rightly remain concerned and apprehensive. Education about these sites and their public health implications to the community's low-income families and their children has not been adequately addressed to date. Lack of information, misinformation, lack of knowing where to access pertinent information on water quality and safe drinking water and how to interpret it, and a lack of understanding of the significance of public health issues have hampered the community's ability to respond, should there be an emergency (such as past sarin bomblet scares at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge). Environmental issues such as the ongoing Suncor petroleum leakage into Sand Creek and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge's pollution of the water table continue to be lingering questions facing an unprepared community. The perceived as well as the real risks and harms of the impacts of these sites – and potentially other undiscovered sites – on our affected communities cannot be minimized; they provide the impetus for calls to education and action, led by the youth of the ELKYN-CWC project and a greater degree of confidence in local and national environmental health organizations. Most ELKYN-CWC youth and their families live within three miles or less of all of these sites.

Community benefits from the project results: Youth are the key to strengthening our community's ability to address future environmental issues. The ELKYN-CWC project's ability to reach youth, through ELK's long-standing relationships with local schools and communities and as one of the few environmental focused after-school learning experiences available to students, makes this a strategic target group in affected communities. In our experience, once students are exposed to new ideas and encouraged to think critically, such as learning about their inclusion in environmental justice and their potential for affecting real change in issues and systems, youth begin to explore ideas and community environmental challenges independent of a structured learning environment. This employs building leadership skills that help students question the supposed inevitability of environmental impacts and instead work proactively to prevent unequal burdens and to ensure communities receive the assistance they need and can enjoy the environmental justice they are due. ELK youth will share Eric P.'s sentiment after participating in the ELKYN-CWC project: *"ELK has taught me to not be selfish but to give back to my community by teaching youth about the environment."* (Age 17)

The proposed ELKYN-CWC project will result in both environmental and community benefits for families by building a platform for emerging young leaders to develop and lead their communities; creating and sustaining a pipeline of information for affected community residents, young and old; and establishing and implementing action plans that result in tangible and

sustainable benefits of environmental justice as well as solutions to water pollution and contamination, and local environmental and public health issues. We expect ELKYN-CWC project participants to express Rebekah A.'s results: "*Environmental Learning for Kids taught me how to be an innovator, facilitator, and a communicator for the great outdoors.*" (Age 17)

For example, the high density population of Montbello, total population of 30,348 and a child population of 11,137, along with the racial/ethnic composition of 59% Latino, 28% Black, and 8% Caucasian and approximately 90% of students qualifying for free or reduced cost lunch, makes this project a transformational achievement for a community which has had decades of environmental injustice associated with the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, before it became a Refuge. Although appearing to be resolved to those outside of these affected communities, the negative legacy of the Refuge is still ingrained in the culture and history of these neighborhoods.

ELK delivers the resources and programming needed by providing opportunities to learn about the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts, and environmental justice, training youth in collecting and analyzing scientific data, exposing youth to environmental science careers, honing leadership skills in problem solving, teamwork, and public speaking, providing mentors from the scientific and natural resources fields, and encouraging life-long learning, teaching, and making wise life choices. The ELKYN-CWC project youth will lead the community in setting priorities and engaging their communities in stewardship, environmental educational activities, and community actions on the path to environmental justice.

III. Organization's Historical Connection to the Affected Community

ELK has a long and successful history of working with the Montbello, Green Valley Ranch, Park Hill, and Commerce City affected communities. Since 1996, ELK has led programs for underserved youth and families of color from low-income neighborhoods in northeast Denver. ELK's founders and leaders reside in the Montbello community in which ELK works, providing a strong tie to the concerns and citizens of the community. This connection has been reinforced by ELK's participation in other community and city organizations, including Montbello 20/20, Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver City Council District 11, Boys and Girls Club-Montbello, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Museum of Nature and Science and the Denver Zoo to ensure an effective use of resources and broad communication to the greater population. ELK also maintains strong partnerships with state and national organizations which will support both our mission and this project. A sampling of these collaborators are seven Denver metropolitan area school districts; Colorado Department of Natural Resources; Colorado State Parks; Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; U.S. Forest Service; National Parks Service; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and The Trust for Public Land.

Work with community's residents and organizations to address local environmental and public health issues: ELK has played a significant role in addressing local environmental, public health issues by providing youth and their families with the capacity to identify and address environmental burdens in their community. ELK participants are required to participate in community stewardship projects, which help them and their families directly address issues in their own affected community.

For example, ELK youth and families continue to be actively engaged in addressing the lack of open space and access to the Refuge for the Park Hill, Montbello, and Green Valley Ranch communities. Through research and community engagement, ELK youth have been instrumental in educating their families and other stakeholders about the importance of open space for not only environmental health, but their own physical health. They have asked, "Why don't we have a direct way to get into the Refuge? Why can't we ride our bikes to the area? Why

do we have to drive to get into the Refuge?” The ongoing critical assessment of current access to natural resources that directly affect their connection to clean and safe drinking water is a high priority of ELK youth. ELK youth continue to work with Montbello 20/20 to prioritize next steps to address this inequity of access to the Refuge.

This is only one example of independently-led projects, inspired by ELK activities, that has sparked interest and action on environmental and public health issues in the students’ own neighborhoods. ELK supports this inquiry process by connecting neighborhood youth with community partners to strengthen their work. ELK youth gain a sense of accomplishment and pride in their communities and an increased propensity to question the environmental status quo. These are the necessary building blocks to creating community leaders to challenge environmental injustice and prepare for future environmental harms, including clean water and safe drinking water issues.

Residents as part of the decision-making process: ELK exists to serve our community, and thus it is imperative to integrate the input, opinions, and experiences of affected community residents and organizations. Tools for providing that input include community meetings, feedback forums, question and answer sessions, and small group sessions that engage and empower our community and its youth to become part of our decision-making process. ELK staff, volunteers, and youth regularly attend and present educational topics at monthly community meetings and serve on community group working committees. Last year, ELK youth attended four community meetings and stewardship projects in Montbello helping to facilitate discussions about the acquisition and development of community land for a future open space.

Increased community capacity to address local environmental and public health issues: Our work addressing local environmental and public health issues in the low income communities and communities of color in Denver build capacity in the group that most needs it: our youth. ELK participants have a much higher high school graduation rate (100% in the past four years and 98% since ELK’s inception) than their peers (less than 60%) and are better prepared to attend college and make wise life choices. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of our students pursue careers in the sciences and natural resources fields, through college major selection and employment. The ELK executive team has constantly and successfully reached out to high-level local and state lawmakers, advocating that attention and resources be more equitably directed toward these communities.

Maintaining and sustaining ongoing relationships with community’s residents and organizations: ELK’s 19 years in these affected communities, and a deep commitment to strong partnerships with our affected residents and their children, other community groups, government officials, and Denver Public Schools, helps us maintain our community relationships. ELK’s Executive Director sustains strong connections to the community’s residents by serving as a board member of Montbello 20/20, a neighborhood community organization, and serving on community committees for Denver Public Schools. Her strong representation neighborhood interests provides an actionable way to address community concerns and sustain relationships.

IV. Project Description: Historically, environmental justice issues have arisen when marginalized communities and communities of color do not have the skills, education, or information to advocate for their communities. The ELKYN-CWC project will leverage our existing community relationships to engage our youth and their families in understanding how threats to clean water and safe drinking water affect them. Our youth will demonstrate an understanding of how and from where uncontrolled releases of waste and hazardous substances can contaminate drinking water and threaten healthy ecosystems. Our goal is for our youth to use

the science skills learned to pursue academic and professional careers in environmental or natural resource sciences or, at the very least to become well-informed, involved citizens. Juan H., expresses it best: “*ELK has educated me by helping me learn about my surroundings and science. I have learned a lot about wildlife and how to protect nature.*” (Age 12) ELK has identified three major activity areas for achieving these environmental and public health results:

Activity 1: Increase knowledge of the importance and relevance of clean water and safe drinking water as they relate to environmental justice issues by engaging youth and their families in affected communities in educational activities that teach basic science inquiry and environmental justice in a framework relevant to these communities’ quality of life issues.

Activity 2: Build leadership capacity of youth by providing mentorship and opportunities to increase skills in problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking, meeting facilitation, and public speaking.

Activity 3: Increase community action around clean water and safe drinking water issues by identifying partnerships and action opportunities that involve youth in environmental stewardship and promote a stewardship ethos that increases awareness about the natural environment and its connection to human health.

Local environmental and public health results the project projects seeks to achieve: The ELKYN-CWC project results will be achieved by focusing on local clean water and safe drinking water issues in our outdoor and nature-based program activities, engaging in dialogues with youth and their families in affected communities on environmental justice issues and corresponding actions to reduce environmental burdens, and engaging the larger community in building clean water/drinking water baseline knowledge and facilitating a common response to future impacts. We will empower and educate the youth and families with understanding of environmental and public health issues and help identify and implement effective and achievable means to address these issues at the local level. The ELKYN-CWC project will increase the capacity of our community to address water contamination and other environmental injustices by sharing information, educating our up-and-coming leaders, and providing opportunities to individual community members to take on leadership roles. The most basic and effective means of change is through our youth - our future decision-makers and leaders in environmental change.

Achievement of results and activities designed to educate, empower and enable the community: *Goal 1: Education of youth on local clean water and safe drinking water issues* through outdoor and nature-based activities. These activities engage youth and their families from affected communities in Colorado’s natural environment and focus on basic water science, urban water systems, infrastructure and management, sources of threats to clean water and safe drinking water, point vs. non-point source pollution, impacts on wildlife, and the direct impacts on human health. It is important for youth to travel outside of their immediate surroundings to discover firsthand the impacts of water pollution on Colorado’s many different ecosystems. Activities also teach the basics of scientific inquiry and natural resources management and expose youth to multiple environmental and science careers.

Goal 2: Mentorship and leadership skills development for ELK participants and their families.

- One-to-one and group adult and peer mentoring sessions: ongoing monthly sessions that provide personal development, youth community building, academic support, and college preparatory assistance to high school students from affected communities.
- Career talks by professionals in science and natural resources fields: presentations at each outdoor program, with emphases on local knowledge and connecting public health with the

environment. College and university campus visits with tours provided by students of color, ELK alumni, and academics in science and natural resources fields.

Goal 3: Community stewardship projects focused on riparian restoration, aquatic invasive species removal, non-point pollution prevention and educational water quality monitoring. Youth acquire environmental stewardship experience while learning the scientific method, data collection skills, and critical thinking skills to understand outcomes and implications of pollution and invasive species on local environment and public health.

- Water quality testing on local creeks, rivers and lakes with youth learning to collect, test, and describe data from chemical analysis of dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, hardness, metals, nutrients, turbidity, and health of aquatic invertebrates as water quality indicators.
- Wetlands restoration along Sand Creek, First Creek, Overland Pond Park, Lake Lehow, and the South Platte River in Denver: environmental assessment of the area, research on indigenous and invasive species, effects of industrial and recreational users, and how wetlands and plants can help to improve water quality.
- ELK-led Community Stewardship Projects: local community environmental stewardship projects on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, and Earth Day.
- Youth will participate in stream bank and vegetation restoration service learning projects along water bodies in the Denver and Commerce City areas while exploring the causes and impacts of erosion and non-point pollution on water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Timeframe:

Month	Activities
Ongoing - monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELK recruitment continues. • ELK community outreach continues. • Community partners planning, development, and outcome tracking meetings. • Community stewardship project identification and implementation continues • Monthly youth and family peer mentoring sessions continue
Apr. 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants receive pre-test and pre-survey • Students begin self-guided research on Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts • Ongoing fishing programs: aquatic ecology and water quality testing
May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore urban water sources and contamination threats • Ongoing fishing programs: aquatic ecology and water quality testing
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands restoration project and water quality testing • Ongoing fishing programs: aquatic ecology and water quality testing
June/July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth develop presentations on water quality for local affected community groups • Ongoing fishing programs: aquatic ecology and water quality testing
Aug.-Sept. 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Treatment Facilities tour and program • Overland Pond Park fishing and stewardship projects
Oct. 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term review. • Mid-term EPA report.
Ongoing 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood non-point pollution sources program
Jan. 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLK day community stewardship project focused on water quality issues.
Feb. 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic ecology, water quality tests, air particulate count (to determine impacts on water quality)/ice fishing in Georgetown, CO.

Month	Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver Wastewater/Public Works field trip. • Presidents' Day community stewardship project.
Ongoing 2014-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver Water field trip in partnership with Denver Parks and Recreation. • Wetlands restoration stewardship project implementation with community partners.
Apr. 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Day community stewardship project. • Ongoing fishing programs: aquatic ecology and water quality testing • Aquatic habitat related to fisheries/fishing at Lake Lehow. • Evaluation of program. Participants will receive post-test and post-survey. • Final report to EPA.

ELK utilizes a substantial set of evaluation tools to track progress and measure outcomes including *Pre- and post-tests*: Track ELK participants' increased knowledge in science and the environment, critical thinking, problem solving, and self-confidence in leadership abilities. *Pre- and post-surveys*: track awareness and any behavioral changes through participation in the program (i.e. self-motivated learning about water issues, changing habits to reduce carbon footprint, engaging in water quality discussions with non-ELK youth and adults).

Increasing the community's capacity for local environmental and public health issues: The ELKYN-CWC project will teach youth about the sources of, uses for, and threats to the water their affected communities depend on. Explorations of pollution, water conservation methods, water sampling techniques, geographical disparities in water quality and outdoor and nature experiences in wilderness settings will connect them to mentors and career paths related to water science, natural resources, environmental health, and sustainability. Local environmental stewardship projects, outreach to members of their broader communities, and expanded academic and career opportunities will result in environmental, public health, and community-wide benefits for youth and families.

Relation to identified environmental statutes: Clean Water Act – ELK directly addresses the requirements of the Clean Water Act statute by training low-income youth and youth of color from affected communities about current and potential sources of water pollution in their communities and on water quality testing and analysis. The ELKYN-CWC project will teach methods of scientific inquiry, provide youth with a practical application of science and environmental tools, and introduce them to academic and career pathways related to water science. Our project connects water quality with students' everyday lives in their local communities, helping them understand how water quality and environmental justice affect them.

Safe Drinking Water Act – ELK directly addresses the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water statute by engaging low-income youth and youth of color in understanding the sources, treatment, protection and potential threats to safe drinking water in their communities. This project teaches youth and their families about the high water quality standards for municipal drinking water, how to interpret water quality reports, sources of potential threats to drinking water safety and what to do in case of emergencies that affect drinking water safety.

ii) Organization and its partner(s) work together addressing local issue(s).

Partner roles: Colorado Parks & Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, Denver Parks & Recreation, the National Park Service, and Denver Water will share the roles of providing natural resource and science professionals to assist in leading the ELKYN-CWC project programs and trips. Montbello 20/20 will disseminate information to the affected communities about this project and provide community forums for the presentation of educational information and planning for

community stewardship projects. Denver City Councilman Chris Herndon's District 11 Council office will provide information to his constituents about water quality and safe drinking water and ways for citizens to get involved in project activities. Denver Public Schools, Denver Parks and Recreation centers, and the Mayor's office of Commerce City will provide crucial information dissemination to their constituents about this project.

Nature of partner organizations and resources they bring: Partner organizations listed above are both natural resource and community-based organizations, bringing necessary resources of in-kind staff, topic-specific expertise, research data, technical skills, mentorship to expose youth to a diversity of careers in the sciences, and wide audience scope for increased engagement, education, and empowerment for affected communities.

Partners' vested interests, commitments and specific activities responsibility: Our long-term partners have identified their own organizational needs fulfilled by a partnership with ELK, including diversifying their workforce, increasing capacity to outreach to underserved communities, and providing education and engagement activities to improve public health. Commitments made with all partners are long-term, and activities include staff support, job shadowing, engagement with youth on content material and career counseling, and openness to new ideas and means to engage youth and communities of color in natural resources protection. Partners are responsible for teaching technical skills, mentoring opportunities, utilizing their vast networks to widely share the work of the ELKYN-CWC project's activities and community stewardship work, and allowing the project to recruit participants for the project.

Maintaining and sustaining partnerships: ELK has the capacity to both fully maintain and sustain these partnerships well into the future with consistent communication, mutual respect and support of mission statements, and sharing of resources.

V. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capability

ELK's organizational systems include monthly reporting and review of all financial transactions by the Board of Director's Finance committee, including the Board Treasurer's approval on monthly financials and bookkeeping. Reports include balance sheet, profit and loss statements, and bank reconciliation along with other specialized internal reports. Administrative systems include QuickBooks and an internal database to track income and expenses, including line by line expenditure tracking for all of ELK's active grant funds.

Past successful management: Close working relationships with ELK's bookkeeper and accountant have provided successful management of past federally and privately funded projects, including monthly and quarterly reviews to ensure all project expenditures match approved budgets for line item expenditures.

Plans to effectively manage and successfully complete project: ELK will continue to sustain the processes described above and closely adhere to project timelines and milestones. All required federal documents and reports will be completed on or before the required due date.

Organizational experience to successfully achieve goals: Since 1996, ELK has led programs for underserved youth and families of color from low-income neighborhoods, playing a significant role in addressing local environmental issues by providing youth with the capacity to identify and address environmental burdens in their community. ELK is staffed by a team of professionals with more than 40 years of collective experience and academic backgrounds in wildlife biology, conservation, environmental education, organizational development, and nonprofit management. ELK staff are culturally, ethnically, and linguistically diverse, reflecting the youth and families that we serve.

EPA and/or other Federal grant/cooperative agreements in the last five years: Past performance has been excellent in meeting all reporting requirements for the following: Project Officer: Carrie Clingon, Grant Agreement: 41974, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Awarded April 2014; Project Officer: John Wessels, Cooperative Agreement with National Park Service (NPS), Awarded March 2012; Project Officer: April Nowak, Grant agreement Number: EQ-96817201-0, U.S. EPA, Awarded Sept 2012; Project Officer: Wendy Dew, Grant agreement Number: NE-97898101-0, U.S. EPA, Awarded August 2010; Project Officer: Nancy Reish, Grant agreement Number: EQ-97885301-0, U.S. EPA, Awarded June 2010

VI. Qualifications of the Project Manager (PM)

PM qualifications: Executive Director Stacie Gilmore has been successfully leading ELK since 1996. She earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in zoology and chemistry from Metropolitan State College of Denver and graduated from Regis University with a Master's degree in non-profit management. She has been involved in environmental and conservation education since 1990 and worked for the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. In March 2014, Stacie was honored by the President Obama as a Champion of Change for Engaging the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders.

PM ties to the community and/or organization: Stacie has been actively involved in her community, through ELK and as a resident, for more than 18 years. She began her career under the former Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, during his tenure with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Stacie is a founding board member of the Montbello 20/20 community group, serves on a variety of Denver Public Schools community groups, served on the Stapleton Citizen Advisory Board and the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education.

Past PM activities in the community: In the past 19 years, Stacie has expanded ELK's role beyond simply providing environmental education to providing mentorship, encouraging career planning, and building community leaders. She has done this by stewarding successful, long-term partnerships with government agencies, local non-profit organizations, and local businesses. She has emphasized the community's need to close its achievement gap through educational forums and activities that provide career exploration in science and natural resources.

VII. Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes

- Grant Agreement Number: 91974 / Awarded: April 2014 / Title of Project: Community Greening and Restoration Project / Amount of Funding: \$30,000 / Funding Agency: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation / Point of Contact: Carrie Clingon
- Cooperative Agreement / Awarded: March 2012 / Title of Project: Urban Rangers – Youth Summer Employment Program / Funding Agency: National Park Service (NPS) / Point of Contact: John Wessels
- Grant agreement Number: EQ-96817201-0 / Awarded September 2012 / Title of Project: Youth in Natural Resources-Our Water, Our Air / Amount of Funding: \$25,000 / Funding Agency: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency / Point of Contact: April Nowak

Prior and/or current assistance agreements documentation: Documentation of each task's start and finish dates, partner responsibilities, and possible barriers are tracked and communicated to the PM monthly. Midterm and final reports along with designated federal government reporting forms are completed on or before mandated deadlines.

Explanation of no progress: N/A

VIII. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Information. Existing environmental data or collection of new: This project will only use existing environmental data.